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FA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

1. As indicated earlier Dept cannot consider January 12 talks to be formal part of QUOTE negotiations UNQUOTE. Negotiations session will require formal instructions to US Delegation, Circular 175 clearance and industry participation. Although difference in nature of meetings may not matter from Italian point of view, Dept would appreciate any GOI release make clear that January session is informal and preliminary to negotiations.

2. Therefore request Fonoff be asked to change first sentence of GOI communique to read: QUOTE We have learned at Foreign Ministry that preliminary informal talks regarding a new air agreement etc. UNQUOTE. Also request fourth sentence be deleted and replaced by following: QUOTE During the preliminary meeting the representatives of the two govts will discuss the program of work for the negotiations and will consider in general terms the various matters to be taken up in the negotiations. UNQUOTE.

3. USG does not plan to issue press release on preliminary talks. Although Dept appreciates opportunity comment on GOI communique, Foreign Ministry

(3)

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should be asked to indicate that release is Italian communique purely and not joint communique.

END

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